A New Data Stewardship Plan

2017-2018 ICPSR Annual Report
I celebrated two years as ICPSR director in July 2018. It’s been quite the honor and adventure to oversee many milestones over the past year. This report covers ICPSR’s fiscal year 2017-18 — another amazing year of data stewardship. I’d like to highlight a few of the things we’ve been celebrating.

The ICPSR Council endorsed our new Strategic Plan, which will take us through 2021 and beyond. The plan articulates our vision for a data-driven future and ICPSR’s role in stewarding data to enable transformative and reproducible scientific research and evidence-building. For highlights on our plan to keep Innovation, Security, Preservation, and Access at the forefront, check out a fun video from the Membership and Communications team.

In early 2018, we launched a new Summer Program Diversity Initiative and were thrilled to learn later in the year that we received additional financial support for the initiative from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. The Gates Foundation grant will help fund even more students from underrepresented groups — a major boost for diversity in the social and behavioral sciences.

Left: Members of the ICPSR staff model new T-Shirts designed by data curator Ashley Doonan in 2018. Doonan created the winning entry in a T-shirt design contest. The ICPSR Staff Advisory Committee helped to produce the new gear and distribute it to staff, as a gesture of appreciation for all of the great things they do. (Photo by Kelsey Zimmerman)
We announced the Researcher Passport, a great resource to help safeguard the research community’s access to and management of confidential data. As data stewards, we want data to be used in ethical, responsible, and transparent ways. This project helps make sensitive or private data available to trusted researchers in a secure computing environment.

And on top of everything else, we were enhancing much of ICPSR’s underlying infrastructure to provide our data users with an array of new features, including an updated Search Results page, newly designed study home pages, faster and more powerful searches, enhanced download statistics with visualization, charts and tables, and more. In the fall of 2018, we celebrated the public release of the 10,000th curated ICPSR study. We are so thankful for our wonderful Data Curation team. This year we released 471 new and updated studies and had 708 new data collections deposited to ICPSR.

Looking ahead, we’re very excited about the 2019 Biennial Meeting of ICPSR Representatives, which will bring representatives from ICPSR’s member institutions to Ann Arbor in Fall 2019 for a few days of data education, activism, insights, and fellowship.

Here’s to another great year in data stewardship!
In early 2018, I was honored to accept the ICPSR Council Chair gavel from Chandra Muller, who helped lead ICPSR through the process to select a new ICPSR director in 2017. It has been rewarding to see ICPSR's evolution from the perspective of the Council Chair seat. During fiscal year 2017-18, the Council gave its endorsement to ICPSR's new Strategic Plan, which highlights many of the great things ICPSR does—investing in data stability, security, innovation, and access—and its plans for the future. We're thrilled about the work that went into the Strategic Plan, and the willingness of the staff to continue the work of this amazing institution.

We welcomed six new members to the Council for four-year terms beginning in 2018. Bobray Bordelon is an Economics & Finance Librarian and Data Services Librarian at Princeton University. Lisa D. Cook is an Associate Professor of Economics and of International Relations at Michigan State University and is Co-Director of the American Economic Association Summer Program. Lindsey Malcom-Piqueux is Associate Director for Research and Policy at the Center for Urban Education in the USC Rossier School of Education.

Left: The ICPSR Council gathers in Ann Arbor in April 2018.
Katherine Wallman served as chief statistician at the United States for 25 years, retiring at the end of 2016. Keith E. Whitfield became provost of Wayne State University on June 1, 2016. Esther Wilder is a Professor of Sociology at Lehman College, City University of New York. All bring an important diversity of views and experiences to the Council.

ICPSR has put a lot of work into its diversity goals, with ongoing efforts to further diversity, equity and inclusion across the organization. The Summer Program’s new and expanding diversity scholarship, supported by the Gates Foundation, is just one sign of things to come.

The Council has been impressed by how smoothly ICPSR has carried out its transitions not just in its leadership and staff, but also (and as fundamentally) in its underlying data infrastructure. If you haven’t noticed these changes, that’s because the staff has continued to provide its incredible data services even as it has rolled out significant upgrades for data users and depositors. The technology infrastructure project, known internally as Archonnex, will be transformative for ICPSR and beyond.

Council is pleased at how ICPSR has evolved, and promises to continue evolving. We look forward to the year to come, and continuing to see new and ongoing initiatives bear fruit.
Council endorses new ICPSR Strategic Plan

The ICPSR Council gave its endorsement to ICPSR’s new Strategic Plan, which details an organizational paradigm shift to support research data through 2021 and beyond. The plan highlights and supports four key strengths: Innovation, Security, Preservation, and Access.
Unveiling The Researcher Passport

A team led by ICPSR Director and U-M Professor Margaret Levenstein detailed a new process to safeguard the research community's access to and management of confidential data in their white paper, titled “The Researcher Passport: Improving Data Access and Confidentiality Protection.” The report detailed progress on new researcher credentialing system, which includes a new Researcher Passport. The Researcher Credentialing for Restricted Data Access project, funded by the the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation, aims to increase the willingness of data custodians to share data, and the ability of researchers to undertake creative analyses, with the least possible risk to privacy and confidentiality.
Diversity Initiative gets a boost from Gates Foundation

The ICPSR Summer Program announced a new initiative to promote quantitative skills among promising undergraduates and incoming graduate students from underrepresented groups. The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation is pitching in $148,500 to help bolster the Diversity Initiative launched in early 2018.
ICPSR held a Save the Data event on Friday, March 2, 2018. Over 20 people showed up to download valuable government data and upload them into DataLumos. As a result, the DataLumos archive increased its data holdings by an estimated 30 percent.
More than an upgrade: Technology updates re-imagine ICPSR experience

In early 2018, ICPSR announced a new data user experience, two years in the making, that gave data users an array of new features, including an updated Search Results page, newly designed study home pages, faster and more powerful search, enhanced download statistics with visualization, charts and tables, and more.

ICPSR also launched the newest versions of the ICPSR websites. Some of the new features included a re-imagined, yet familiar, design, a more powerful search mechanism, customizable filters, more detailed download statistics, updated version control, and so much more.
ICPSR Data Story Contest

During the Love Data Week 2018, we asked the ICPSR community to share its successes/failures in dealing with data. The winners were Rob O’Reilly, a Data Services Librarian at Emory University, and Lynda Kellam, a Data Services and Government Information Librarian at UNC at Greensboro.
New repository holds US Census Bureau Data

A new US Census Bureau Data Repository was launched to preserve and disseminate survey instruments, specifications, data dictionaries, codebooks, and other materials provided by the Census Bureau. This repository helps fulfill key recommendations made by the 2017 “Report of the Commission on Evidence-Based Policymaking.” Specifically, the repository improves transparency by establishing a “searchable inventory, through which the public can learn about the data that government collects.”
The 2018 ICPSR Summer Program drew 953 participants from more than 30 disciplines and 311 institutions (including colleges, universities, private businesses, research organizations, and federal agencies). The program employed 135 instructors and teaching assistants who offered a total of 84 courses.

The ICPSR Summer Program Diversity Initiative, which launched in early 2018, got a big boost later in the year from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, which will help even more participants from underrepresented groups to enhance their methodological skills, and increase their likelihood of academic success.
Research Paper Competitions

We were pleased to announce the first- and second-place winners of our 2018 Research Paper Competitions.

Paul Hemez, (Demography and Family) of Bowling Green State University earned First Place in the Master’s Competition with a paper titled “Military Service and Entry into Marriage: Comparing Service Members to Civilians,” which has been published in a special edition of the ICPSR Bulletin.

Matthew Utterback (Applied Economics and Management) of Cornell University earned Second Place in the Master’s competition with a paper titled “Investigating Weather Shocks and the Farmers’ Perceptions of Climate Change in the American Farmland Market.”

There were no winners for the Undergraduate competition.
Rewind: Videos for data stewardship

ICPSR broadcasted 34 webinars with 1,243 attendees in fiscal year 2017-2018. They included:

- Making the Most out of ICPSR Membership – for old and new members and those exploring membership in ICPSR
- DataLumos: A Tool for Improving the Future Accessibility of Valuable Government Data
- Experience ICPSR’s New Data Dissemination System – Improving Data Discovery, Review, and Selection

Webinar videos and slides are available on the [ICPSR YouTube channel](https://www.youtube.com).
Membership Trends

ICPSR added 24 member institutions in fiscal year 2018 with notable increases in Foreign, Master’s and Associate member institutions, ending the year with 778 total member institutions.

Web Presence

In fiscal year 2017-18, the ICPSR website had 482,232 users, with 798,131 sessions; 5,184,842 page views; and 479,018 new users, and 103,484 returning users.
2017 Biennial ICPSR Meeting

Over 170 attendees from 90 institutions joined us for workshops and sessions October 11-13, 2017, for Building for a Data-Driven Future! The biennial meeting highlighted ICPSR's core functions, including current data collections and data-related tools and exciting new data projects. The meeting also imparted practical approaches and strategies to work with data producers to share data, write data management plans, and to support researchers seeking to reuse research data for analyses and publications. One key highlight was the "International Data Panel: Sources, Research Opportunities, and Challenges," with presenters from the Joint Economic and Sociological Data Archive (JESDA); The GESIS Data Archive for Social Sciences; the UK Data Service; and the China Data Center. Did you miss it? Recordings and presentation slides can be found on ICPSR's YouTube Channel as well as on the ICPSR Meeting website.
Staff and researchers from ICPSR and its topical archives exhibited at, participated in, or presented papers at a variety of conferences around the world, including the following:

- Special Library Association (SLA)
- American Sociological Association (ASA)
- IFLA World Library and Information Congress
- American Political Science Association (APSA)
- Society for Research in Child Development (SRCD)
- National Research Conference on Early Childhood (NRCEC)
- Association for Asian Studies (AAS)
- Midwest Political Science Association (MPSA)
- Creative Placemaking Leadership Summit (CPLS)
- American Association of Geographers (AAG)
- American Educational Research Association (AERA)
- Population Association of America (PAA)
- Congress of Humanities & Social Sciences
- International Association for Social Science Information Services & Technology
- Society for Prevention Research (SPR)
- OpenRepositories Conference
- International Association of Gerontology and Geriatrics: World Congress of Gerontology and Geriatrics (IAGG)
- American Psychological Association (APA)
ICPSR closed fiscal year 2018 with revenues totaling $18.4 million; representing a 2 percent decrease from fiscal year 2017’s total. Membership dues income, totaling $4.06 million, stayed nearly the same as 2017 and contributed 22% of the organization’s total revenue. Sponsored project awards contributed $8.6 million and accounted for 47% of ICPSR’s revenue. Summer Program revenue was $1.75 million for fiscal year 2018. ICPSR’s overall expenses were $18.9 million, a 6.8% increase from fiscal year 2017. The organization closed fiscal year 2017 with a surplus of $1,163,159. As of June 30, 2017, ICPSR maintained a total fund balance of $5,740,893.
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<td>Maternal Lifestyle Study in Four Sites in the United States, 1993-2011</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey (NHANES), 1999-2000</td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>Uniform Crime Reporting Program Data [United States]: 1975-1997</td>
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Three honored with 2017 Warren E. Miller Award and William H. Flanigan Award

Julia Lane and Robert McCaa were recipients of the 2017 Warren E. Miller Award, and Bobray Bordelon has been named the recipient of the 2017 William H. Flanigan Award. Lane is a Professor at New York University’s Center for Urban Science and Progress (CUSP), and at NYU’s Wagner Graduate School of Public Service. She also serves as a Provostial Fellow for Innovation Analytics and Senior Fellow at NYU’s GovLab. McCaa is a founding member as Ambassador of the Integrated Public Use Microdata Series (IPUMS)-International project. Bordelon, a Princeton University Economics & Finance Librarian/Data Services Librarian, is a long-time, active ICPSR Official Representative (and current ICPSR Council member), who has been a knowledgeable and effective promoter of ICPSR’s data and other resources.

Awards were presented to each of the honorees at the 2017 Biennial ICPSR Meeting on Thursday, Oct. 12, 2017.
Six ICPSR Council members begin new terms

We welcomed six new members to the ICPSR Council for four-year terms beginning in 2018. Bobray Bordelon is an Economics & Finance Librarian and Data Services Librarian at Princeton University. Lisa D. Cook is an Associate Professor of Economics and of International Relations at Michigan State University and is Co-Director of the American Economic Association Summer Program. Lindsey Malcom-Piqueux is Associate Director for Research and Policy at the Center for Urban Education in the USC Rossier School of Education. Katherine Wallman served as chief statistician at the United States for 25 years, retiring at the end of 2016. Keith E. Whitfield became provost of Wayne State University on June 1, 2016. Esther Wilder is a Professor of Sociology at Lehman College, City University of New York.
Mary Vardigan named Archivist Emerita

On July 20, 2017, The Regents of the University of Michigan named Mary K. Vardigan Archivist Emerita. Vardigan, who retired in 2015, had a significant hand in shaping the organization for 30 years. In addition to serving as ICPSR editor and directing ICPSR's Collection Delivery Unit, she also has served as Director of the Data Documentation Initiative (DDI), and was involved in other international projects related to data stewardship, including the Data Seal of Approval, the Research Data Alliance, and various efforts to promote data citation. The full Retirement Memoir from July 2017 acknowledges Vardigan's illustrious career and her many contributions to ICPSR and the social science community.
Peter Granda retires after 30+ years of data stewardship

Associate ICPSR Director Peter Granda retired from active faculty status on November 3, 2017, after 32 years at ICPSR. He was also named Archivist Emeritus by the University of Michigan Regents on Feb. 15, 2018. The full Retirement Memoir describes some of Granda's many accomplishments during his time at ICPSR. In addition, Granda took time to reflect on his time at ICPSR in the Fall 2017 ICPSR Bulletin.

Left: Peter Granda holds up a parting gift at his retirement party in October 2017.
ICPSR welcomes new Associate Director and Research Professor J. Trent Alexander

Associate Director and Research Professor J. Trent Alexander joined ICPSR in 2017. Alexander is a historical demographer whose previous roles included Assistant Chief of the Center for Administrative Records Research and Applications, and one of the leads on the IPUMS project at the Minnesota Population Center.

Libby Hemphill becomes director of RCMD

Libby Hemphill joined ICPSR in fall 2017 as Resource Center for Minority Data director, and as Associate Research Professor at ICPSR, and Associate Professor in the University of Michigan School of Information. Hemphill came from the Illinois Institute of Technology, where she was Associate Professor of Communication and Information Studies in the Lewis College of Human Sciences.
ICPSR 101 team honored as ICPSR Innovators of the Year

The team behind the ICPSR 101 video series was honored as the 2018 ICPSR Innovators of the Year. The ICPSR 101 series focuses on frequently-asked questions and the many research data resources available from ICPSR. Videos produced so far in the series include: “What is ICPSR?,” “What is Data Curation?,” and “What are Metadata (and why are they so important)?” Videos are available to view (and share) in the ICPSR 101 YouTube playlist.
Anna Shelton becomes ICPSR’s Membership Experience Manager

ICPSR welcomed Anna Shelton in mid 2018, as ICPSR’s new Membership Experience Manager. Shelton relocated from California, where she was Senior Associate Director at Partnership UCLA. She worked closely with faculty members to create collaborative instruction and skills-training opportunities to bring the real world into the classroom. At ICPSR, her role will include helping Official and Designated Representatives connect with each other, and helping you share the incredible work the community is doing with ICPSR data.

Left: ICPSR Membership Experience Manager Anna Shelton captures a moment between webinars at the 2018 ICPSR Data Fair.

Acknowledgements

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